

Application No.: 10/586,712
Amendment Dated: April 30, 2009
Reply to Office Action of: April 15, 2009

MAT-8867US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3 and 4. These sheets replace the original sheets.

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Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-4. Claims 5-9 have been cancelled.

The drawings were objected to because Reference numeral "101" was missing. Figs. 3 and 4 have been amended.

Claim 4 has been objected to. Claim 4 has been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected as being obvious over the combination of Fujii (WO 2003/052840) in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,898) and Yao et al. (US 2007/0164634). Yao is based on PCT Application No. PCT/SG04/00107. The earliest publication date of the PCT reference would be October 23, 2005 (18 months after the PCT International filing date). The present application, however, is based on PCT Application JP 05-002866, with a filing date of February 23, 2005. Thus, Applicants effective filing date is before the publication date of the PCT reference which corresponds to the Yao patent. The rejection is thus improper and should be withdrawn.

Allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Figs. 3 and 4 (2 sheets)

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